Acute Leukemia Care in a Community Hospital: We Did It and So Can You!

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Acute Leukemia Care in a Community Hospital: We Did It and So Can You!
5 Tower Surgical Oncology Unit
Lehigh Valley Health Network, Allentown, Pennsylvania

Significance and Background
Oncology nursing practice is continuously evolving in delivery of cutting edge treatments and associated highly acute and comprehensive care. As a result, availability of intensive therapies is becoming increasingly common in community hospitals.

Purpose
This presentation details the successful implementation of initial induction therapy for acute leukemia on a 30 bed medical-surgical unit within a Magnet™ community hospital, part of a larger, regional healthcare network.

Interventions
Prior to this initiative, unit staff cared for oncology patients; however, treatments and acuity were less intense than those associated with acute leukemic care.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Interprofessional Stakeholder Involvement</th>
<th>Interprofessional Education</th>
<th>Care Delivery Model</th>
<th>Nurse/Patient Ratio</th>
<th>24/7 Support</th>
<th>Nurse Driven Protocols</th>
<th>Electronic Tracking</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nurse managers</td>
<td>Didactic sessions &amp; small group workshops</td>
<td>From team to primary</td>
<td>Decreased to 1:3</td>
<td>Oncology clinical nurse specialists &amp; pharmacists</td>
<td>Electronic marker of all leukemia patients when subsequently treated at any point of care</td>
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<td>Bedside nurses</td>
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<td>Oncology CNSs</td>
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<td>Oncologists</td>
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<td>Pharmacists</td>
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<td>Lab personnel</td>
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Evaluation
Since inception of initial leukemic induction
- No patients experienced sepsis
- Minimal transfers to intensive care
- Quantitative patient and staff satisfaction scores and nurse sensitive clinical outcomes improved or maintained above national data base mean
- No incidents of leukemic patients receiving blood products that have not been leukoreduced or irradiated
- Qualitative comments within patient and employee satisfaction surveys relate commendations for care and staff engagement